



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Flotilla 19 NEWS

April, 2011



Flotilla Commander's Report *By Gary Cordrey, FC*

Spring brings days of warmth and increasing sunshine heralding a new boating season. We have the opportunity to join our fellow members in providing safety information to the public through various venues including information booths, vessel inspections and patrols. Training missions ensure that we're prepared to assist in emergencies when called upon by the Coast Guard. Our hard-working instructors can now stand down a bit from their teaching to work on other projects and explore new ideas for classes in the fall.

We welcome new member, James Engelson. He brings a wealth of auxiliary knowledge and training with him. His interest and expertise in PWCs (personal water craft) is an added benefit to our flotilla.

Some of our members have registered for GNATS, held in Oak Harbor: great classes and an opportunity to interact with some of the other auxiliary members in our region.

Cruise To La Conner: June 24-26, 2011

This is your chance to visit or revisit one of the gems of Washington State. La Conner has great restaurants, a deli/market and shops: upscale, medium-priced and funky. The ice cream offered by two shops is to die for. This is the perfect town in which to "flaner" (French: stroll, lounge, and idle).

It's not too early to think about attending this rendezvous. The Swinomish Channel runs through the town. When you arrive, tie up on F dock, rest, relax, or explore. Our flotilla has reserved dock space. However, the marina needs to know how many boats will be there and the length of each boat. Please respond to Kathryn (360) 220-3872, Lou (360) 815-5826, or me (360) 366-0362 with this information.

For those of you who will be driving, La Conner has several hotels. One is right on the channel. You will be handling your own reservations which should be made as soon as possible to assure that you get accommodations. See you there!

Next Flotilla 19 Meeting: Wednesday April 6th, 7 pm, Blaine Marina Conference Room, 235 Marine Dr., Blaine, WA. See you there!

Previous editions of this newsletter can be found at: www.cdoutre.org/f19/news

Welcome, Andrew Breiteneder

By Gary Cordrey, FC

I'd like to welcome new member Andrew Breiteneder to the flotilla. Andrew is a resident of Point Roberts where he has lived for 21 years. He is a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) instructor with the Point Roberts Emergency Preparedness (PREP) group, and an aviation course instructor in Abbotsford. He is also a commercial pilot and used to fly float planes professionally. His boating interest stems from growing up in a boating family. Andrew is eager to contribute his teaching skills to our MT and PE programs, and to the VE program in Point Roberts. Just to show you how energetic Andrew can be, here are two ads in a series that he runs in the All Point Bulletin. Welcome aboard, Andrew!

Birch Bay Village Yacht Club Boating Safety Day

By Art Cummings, FSO-PA

On Saturday, April 2, four Flotilla 19 members braved wind and rain to make the Birch Bay Village Yacht Club's Boating Safety Day a success. Starting at 0900, Ed Merta, Ryan Langley, and Art Cummings were on hand to conduct vessel examinations, and Nancy Kaye staffed the boating safety information table at the marina office. Club members were well prepared for the event with a VE schedule in place and a generous supply of coffee and snacks. By midday, ten vessel examinations had been completed and Ryan had met the requalification requirements as a VE. In spite of the weather, the day was a success thanks to the yacht club's organization and a few committed flotilla members.

Crossing the Bar

By Randall Kall

It is with sadness that I report the death of Eugene Belanger – the father of my partner Joan – on Tuesday evening, March 15th, just 2 weeks shy of his 94th birthday. Born in Ontario, Canada, Gene was a furniture maker, upholsterer, and boat builder. During WWII he "road-tested" newly-built PT boats on Lake Huron for the Canadian Navy. Although most of you never met the man, I was privileged to sit with him on sunny afternoons, as he warmed his bones on the veranda overlooking Spooner Creek and shared his stories with me, many of them mostly true...

Gene is survived by Frances, his wife for 71 years, 2 children, 6 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren, as well as a large extended family in Canada. Apparently, Gene's only gripe with an otherwise long and satisfying life was that his driver's license was taken away. He was only 85!

The memory of Gene Belanger, a true Old-World Gentleman, will remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. We wish him Calm Seas, Fair Winds and Cloudless Skies.



PREP
Point Roberts
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CERT TRAINING IS HAPPENING SOON!

Community Info: The Community Emergency Response Team training is taking place in Point Roberts on October 1, 2, and 3. We have just over 15 people registered and have some spots available. The cost is \$50 per person which includes all study material, supplies, and equipment necessary for training. Continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be provided by PREP. Please register by September 15th in order to have sufficient study time for the pre-reading required. Call Virginia at 945-2827 or Andrew at 945-1801 for more info and at <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/about.shtml>

September tip: If you use firewood to heat your house or for emergency purposes, now is the time to get your wood supply. Fresh wood takes time to season and requires warm temperatures and wind to facilitate the wood drying process. Don't wait until the first cold spell to secure wood heat for you and your home.

Remember... PREP is **YOU**

Point Roberts Emergency Preparedness 945-PREP www.prepgroup.org

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OUR LOCAL AMERICAN RED CROSS GROUP NEEDS YOU!

Community info: PREP is sponsoring another training session for those who wish to become Red Cross volunteers. Our local Red Cross volunteer group has 21 members so far and it continues to grow. The training will be held on Saturday, February 19 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Firehall on Benson Road. Please respond to Annette Hamm at eannetteg@gmail.com for more details. Hope to see you there.

Monthly tip: Although our winter weather is generally rain, stay prepared in the event of unexpected snowfall or power outage. If you have a generator, run it monthly. Keep emergency supplies in your car trunk until the chance of snow is well past. Remember, if you need help during a heavy snowfall or long term power outage, please call - PREP at 945-PREP for assistance.

Remember... PREP is **YOU**

Point Roberts Emergency Preparedness 945-PREP www.prepgroup.org

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Keep Our Waters Clean
By Kathryn Wellington, FSO-MS

Topic for this month: Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers. One of the workshops at GNATS was a presentation by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) about how aquatic nuisance species (ANS) also known as aquatic invasive species (AIS) can be transported by boaters and what the consequences are for our waters, wildlife, and people. AIS can be plants or animals. Milfoil is an aggressive freshwater weed that chokes out native vegetation and was likely introduced through aquarium dumping. Nutria are animals that were originally introduced for fur farming but now cause widespread damage to streamside habitat and property. Salt water AIS include tunicates, which have been found on boats in Blaine Marina. They grow on boats and on shellfish and can destroy the shellfish harvest.

A large initiative (100th Meridian Initiative) in the Pacific Northwest is to keep out the Zebra and Quagga mussels which were originally introduced into the Great Lakes and have now spread all through the Mississippi River watershed as well as to freshwater lakes in the West including Lake Mead and other lakes in California and Colorado. These mussels damage boat engines, threaten native freshwater mussels and fish, and cost millions of dollars by clogging power plant and public water intakes. Anyone who trailers their boat from one lake to another in the West should be aware of the need to clean the boat and trailer thoroughly and let it dry out before launching again in another lake. All other recreational equipment including boots, waders, fishnets, fishing tackle, should also be cleaned and dried.

Here's what you can do to stop aquatic hitchhikers: When you leave a body of water:

- ✓ Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- ✓ Drain water from equipment (boat, motor, trailer, live wells) before transporting.
- ✓ Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- ✓ Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that same body of water.

To learn more, come to the Flotilla 19 meeting on May 4, and look at: www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Help Wanted, Materials Officer: To be responsible for ordering and managing all supplies and equipment acquired by the flotilla. For more information, or to apply for the job, contact Gary Cordrey, FC, or Michael DeAnnuntis, VFC, FSO-MA.

All flotilla members are welcome to contribute to the newsletter. Email your articles to Chris Doutré, FSO-PB. Plus, if you have burning questions, or newsletter article ideas, please send them to me and I will find someone to write an article on your topic. Try it; you'll like it!

Flotilla Calendar Updates

By Chris Doutre, FSO-PB

We have received a few updates to our flotilla

events calendar. If you are interested in participating in any of these events, please get in touch with the contact named in the chart below. If there is no contact listed yet, and you want to get involved, please contact FC Gary Cordrey.

Event Calendar For 2011	Date	Contact
Semiahmoo Resort Opening Day	May 7	Gary Cordrey
Blaine Harbor Opening Day	May 7	Art Cummings, Kathryn Wellington
Sandy Point Marina Opening Day	May 14	Lyle Schrag
Point Roberts Marina Safety Day	May 21 (tent.)	Lou Herrick
Ski to Sea (100 years old)	May 28	Drew West, Michael DeAnnuntis
Flotilla Rendezvous La Conner	June 24 – 26	Gary Cordrey, Kathryn Wellington
Blaine Old Fashioned 4th of July	July 4	Richard Coons, Pat Guimond
32nd Annual Birch Bay Discovery Days	July 16 – 17	
BP Refinery Safety Days	July	Drew West
Blaine Sail-A-Bration	July	Hoyt Hatfield
Drayton Harbor Days	August 6 – 7	Michael DeAnnuntis, Pat Guimond
Sandy Point Bullhead Derby	August 20	Lyle Schrag
Northwest Washington Fair	August 15 – 20	Michael DeAnnuntis, Sheri McIntosh
Semiahmoo International Regatta	September 10	

Communications Report

By Chris Doutre, FSO-CM

I have several topics for you this month. First, please note that the Icom F121 Land Mobile Radio has been discontinued. It is a great radio and is widely used in the Auxiliary. If you were planning to buy one, the time is now or never. Some dealers still have a few left, but very soon there will be no more. The F121 has been replaced by the IC-F5021, which is almost identical except for different programming software, an incompatible file format, and some new features we probably won't use. I just bought my dealer's last F-121. Keep in mind that several people in D13 have the ability to program your F121 with the D13-standard "code plug" of Auxiliary and Amateur frequencies and settings.

Second, thanks to Terry Sanchez and Randall Kall, we just completed the first-ever "VHF For Mariners" seminar. It was held at the Blaine Marina Conference Room on March 19th. Terry booked the date and did the marketing, Randall did the registration and refreshments, and I did the teaching. It was

a real pleasure. We had five members of the public and seven members of Flotilla 19 in attendance.

At the seminar, VHF experience was all over the map. We had one student who had never actually seen a VHF radio, and we had an experienced Coast Guard watchstander (Lou Herrick). The course consisted of two parts, the first part on traditional analog VHF usage, and the second part on DSC (Digital Selective Calling). DSC is not widely understood, and that is somewhat natural because it is not widely used (chicken and egg issue). But that lack of understanding needs to be addressed now because DSC automates some critical parts of the distress calling process, and the required shoreside infrastructure is now in place throughout the Coast Guard. So from now on, we need to emphasize how important it is to have a DSC radio installed and set up on your boat, and how easy it is to get your free MMSI (Maritime Mobile Service Identifier) from BoatUS. Note that if you intend to voyage internationally, you cannot use the free MMSI from BoatUS. Instead, you will need to get your international MMSI from the FCC, for a fee.

Third, I just recently learned, from Joe McClain, that there is an existing VHF AuxNet in Division 1. It is held six mornings a week, Monday through Saturday, at 0745 on the Lookout Mountain Auxiliary repeater. The primary traffic at the moment is local weather reports. If you have access to that repeater, be sure to check it out. I am hoping to make it most Tuesday mornings. Also, if this particular time does not meet your schedule, but you want to get involved, please contact me. I am very open to establishing additional AuxNets based on the interest of the flotilla members.

Finally, I just got back from GNATS where I attended two very intense Comms sessions. There

were two main messages. First, there is a nationwide push to stand up a robust AuxNet that includes both VHF and HF stations and mobiles. Our role in that push is to focus on getting our own local AuxNets well organized and functioning smoothly on a routine basis. That way, we should be better able to cope when the big one (insert your favorite disaster scenario here) hits and we get the call to help. The second main message was on the topic of encrypted radios. Yes, the active duty side is going to 100% encrypted communications. Yes, the radios cost big, big bucks. But no, we will not be expected to buy those radios. Our leaders are actively working to create a system in which we would be issued those radios whenever our mission requires it. In the meantime, let's get on the air with what we have, and practice, practice, practice.



One of the excellent training sessions held at GNATS this year was how to properly develop and show a display board for a public event. One primary message was: FOCUS, and SIMPLIFY, to get your message across to the visiting public. Photo: AUX Kathryn Wellington (Location: Oak Harbor Yacht Club, Oak Harbor, WA)

We thank Blaine West Marine and Blaine Marina for their support of our local Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Education programs.



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